

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A sheet material to be made into an object by an industrial forming process, the material comprising a metal substrate and a polymer coating system bonded thereto, the coating system comprising:

- an inner layer ~~[[comprising]]~~ consisting of at least one member of the group consisting of (i) PET, (ii) PET modified with at least one member of the group consisting of iso-phthalic acid and cyclohexane dimethanol thereof, as a layer for bonding the system to the substrate;

- a layer consisting ~~[[essentially]]~~ of ~~at least one mixture of PET and PBT selected from the group consisting of (i) a blend of PET and PBT and (ii) a copolymer of PET and PBT~~ as a barrier layer;

- an outer layer ~~[[comprising]]~~ consisting of PET;

wherein the outer layer has a glass transition temperature of at least 70°C.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the PBT-content of the barrier layer mixture is at most about 60% by weight.

5. (Currently amended) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the barrier layer ~~[[mixture]]~~ consists of about 50% by weight PET and ~~[[approximately]]~~ about 50% by weight PBT.

6. (Currently amended) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the PBT-content of the barrier layer ~~[[mixture]]~~ is between about 25 % by weight and about 35% by weight.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the outer layer has a melting temperature of at least 240 °C.

9. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the barrier layer is at least 10µm.

10. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the coating system is smaller than 40 µm.

11. (Previously presented) Metal container made from a sheet material according to claim 1.
12. (Previously presented) Metal container according to claim 11, wherein the substrate comprises steel or a steel alloy or aluminium or an aluminium alloy.
13. (Previously presented) Metal container according to claim 11, wherein the substrate is electro-chromium coated steel (ECCS) or tinplate.
14. (Previously presented) Method container according to claim 11, wherein the metal container is a beverage can.
15. (Previously presented) Process for producing a sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the coating system is produced in situ by extrusion of a layer or co-extrusion of at least two layers using a suitable feed-block/die set-up.
16. (Previously presented) Process for producing a sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the coating system is formed by first preparing a film comprising one or more layers of the coating system, optionally stretching the film, and applying the film to the substrate.
17. (Previously presented) Process for producing a sheet material according to claim 16, wherein the film comprising the barrier and outer layer, which film is optionally stretched before applying the film to the substrate, is applied to the substrate which is already provided with the inner layer.
18. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the PBT-content of the barrier layer mixture is at least about 10% by weight.
19. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the PBT-content of the barrier layer mixture is at least about 15% by weight.
20. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the PBT-content of the barrier layer mixture is at least about 20% by weight.
21. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the barrier layer is at least 15 μm .
22. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the coating system is between 20 and 35 μm .
23. (Previously presented) Sheet material according to claim 1, wherein the total thickness of the coating system is about 30 μm .